

BURNHAM will be hoping to win their first match of 1981 when they arrive at Kempston Rovers tomorrow (Saturday) for their F.A. Vase fourth round tie.

Weakened severely by injuries Burnham have not won since they beat Malden Vale 4-3 after extra time in the previous round in the middle of December. Manager Malcolm Highton now has the difficult task of lifting his side from a 4-0 drubbing at Banstead last week for the match against the United Counties league team.

He has named a squad of 13 for the match, but the final side is likely to be the one that played at Banstead. Ian Alleyne, who has been out injured since signing from Windsor is the surprise inclusion.

John Rose (back) and Eugene Bissett (groin) are both out for the rest of the season while Colin Davies has only partly recovered from a knee injury.

Kempston won through by beating Sawbridgeworth 2-1 after a replay.

While the majority of Isthmian League sides are taking part in the London Senior Cup, Wycombe Wanderers will be travelling to Letchworth tomorrow (Saturday) for a friendly. Letchworth play in Isthmian Division Two and are placed in mid-table.

Then on Tuesday Wanderers are away in another friendly — this time at Chesham United. Their next League match is at Leytonstone on Saturday January 24.

STEVE Hardwick, sent off during Wycombe's 1-0 victory in the F.A. Trophy at Cheltenham on Saturday, faces a two week ban and so misses the second round visit to Sutton United on January 31.

But Hardwick's latest suspension has nothing to do with his dismissal following a flare-up in the second half against Cheltenham. The sentence which starts on Monday, was imposed after he had totted up five bookings in the previous 12 months.

So the bearded Wycombe defender, who received his marching orders after swinging a punch at Cheltenham forward Norman Pemberton, has another suspension pending.

So with three months of the season left, Hardwick

Story by MICHAEL KNOX

could be out of football for nearly half that time — a fact that has angered his manager Mike Keen.

Mr Keen said this week, "I'm not at all pleased about this. I think I've been let down — and it's not the first time. He came back late at the start of the season, decided not to play for the Reserves and took Christmas off. He's had enough chances."

Sorted out

After his refusal in September not to play for the Reserves, Hardwick was placed on the transfer list at an undisclosed fee. Although one or two clubs enquired, there were no serious offers and he was eventually taken off the list.

Mr Keen declined to confirm whether he would repeat this disciplinary action. "The matter will be quietly sorted out at my convenience," he said.

Hardwick's sending off is the latest incident in one of Wycombe's worst ever seasons — from a disciplinary point of view. They have received more than 20 cautions and two dismissals — Tony Price's at Worcester was the other.

While not condoning their disciplinary record, Mr Keen pointed out that things had changed since the mid-seventies when Wycombe thought it disgraceful to get more than a couple of bookings a season. "Referees today hand out cards like parking tickets," he said.

"I tell everybody before a game — don't do anything stupid. But it's different once they get out on to the pitch. It all comes down to self-discipline."

Top tie

"I got booked only once in 15 years, but we all have different temperaments. But

I'm not happy with this season's record," he said.

Wycombe's visit to fellow Isthmians Sutton is one of the top ties of the Trophy second round. Both are placed in the top four of the Premier Division table and share one win each in their league encounters this season.

It is one of the toughest matches Wycombe could have drawn, although as skipper Paul Birdseye pointed out, "at least Sutton allow you to play football, unlike some of the northern teams."

While the fans will not have the fun of a long journey, Wycombe club officials, with previous experiences in mind, are happy that this will not hit the finances. Still, everybody would have preferred a home draw.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	30	15	8	7	58	35	53
Slough	26	15	8	3	41	22	53
Wycombe	30	15	7	8	54	36	52
Sutton	29	14	9	6	54	40	51
Harrow	29	14	6	9	46	31	48
Dagenham	30	12	9	9	57	48	45
Bromley	30	12	8	10	50	49	44
Dulwich	29	11	10	8	47	40	43
Leytonstone	26	12	6	8	48	38	42
Staines Town	31	11	7	13	41	43	40
Barking	34	11	9	14	46	58	40*
Hayes	29	12	4	13	26	36	40
Tooting	31	10	5	16	33	40	35
Woking	31	10	4	17	33	49	34
Leatherhead	31	7	12	12	23	34	33
Carshalton	28	10	3	15	38	55	33
Croydon	27	6	14	7	25	24	32
Boreham Wd	28	8	8	12	36	47	32
Harlow Town	26	7	10	9	32	38	31
Walthamstow	28	9	4	15	29	45	31
Hendon	27	7	7	13	33	44	28
Hitchin Tn	24	7	6	11	31	31	27

* 2 points deducted

'Concerned about discipline record'

I WRITE on behalf of a small (but I think representative) group of Wycombe Wanderers supporters who regularly travel considerable distances to matches, and who over the years, have had nothing but admiration for the club's excellent disciplinary record.

To put it mildly, the decline in standards this season has been disappointing. The only consolation — and it is quite a big one — is the fact that there have been only two persistent offenders and that one of these

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is showing characteristic determination in his efforts to prevent his volatile (and volubility) from getting the better of him.

The other, by virtue of his often nasty behaviour, will surely once again be placed on the transfer list. Let us hope this time, he does, in fact, find another club. He is by no means indispensable.

The reserves now have, alongside Keith Mead, a most

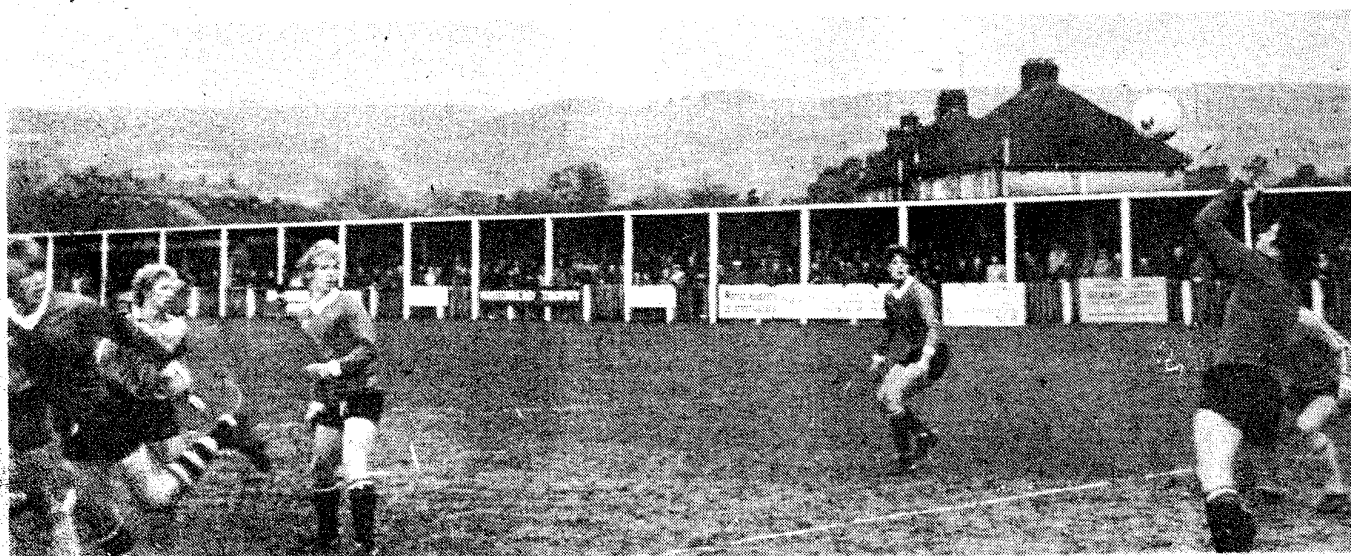
promising young centre-back and from what I have seen of him, he has the ability (and above all the temperament) to graduate into the first team.

Incidentally, the Reserves are now most impressive and bear little resemblance to the various experimental sides which started the season. They, too, seem likely to finish in the top three or four of their league and their matches are excellent value for money.

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Chesham venue

CHESHAM United has been chosen as the venue for the Aylesbury v Enfield F.A. Trophy first round second replay which is to be played on Monday evening, kick off 7.30pm. The match was originally planned for Loakes Park but the F.A. would not agree to the plan.



Cheltenham goalkeeper Tim Harris tips a shot from Jim Jacobs (out of picture) over the bar in the early stages of the F.A. Trophy first round tie against Wycombe on Saturday.